

We claim:

1 1. A centrifugal clutch for coupling the rotational force of a driving
2 member to a driven member, the clutch comprising hub means adapted to be
3 secured at substantially its center to the driving member, the hub means including a
4 plurality of arms extending substantially radially from the center of the hub means, a
5 plurality clutch shoe means located circumferentially about the center of the hub
6 means and slidably mounted on the arms of the hub means for movement
7 independently of one another along the arms inwardly and outwardly of the center of
8 the hub means, means for limiting the furthest extent to which the plurality of clutch
9 shoe means may move outwardly of the center of the hub means along the arms of
10 the hub means, and means
11 for urging the plurality of clutch shoe means inwardly along the arms of the hub
12 means toward the center of the hub means.

1 2. The centrifugal clutch of claim 1 wherein each clutch shoe means has
2 inward and outward sides in relation to the center of the hub means, the outward
3 side being a greater distance from the center of the hub means than the inward side
4 and comprising a surface adapted to engage the driven member and couple the
5 driving member to the driven member, a passageway through the inward side of the
6 clutch shoe means and terminating in a recess in the clutch shoe means, an arm of
7 the hub means being located in the passageway of the clutch shoe means, and the
8 limiting means being fixed to the outer end of the arm of the hub means and
9 positioned in the recess when the clutch shoe means is not in engagement with the
10 driven member.

1 3. The centrifugal clutch of claim 2 wherein the limiting means comprises
2 an enlargement of the arm of a size sufficient to prevent the enlargement from
3 passing through the passageway.

1 4. The centrifugal clutch of claim 3 wherein the recess in each clutch
2 shoe means extends along the entire length of the clutch shoe means between and
3 substantially parallel to the outward and inward sides of the clutch shoe means, and
4 the urging means comprises a garter spring that is located circumferentially of the
5 center of the hub means in the recess of each clutch shoe means between the
6 bottom of the recess and the arm enlargement.

1 5. The centrifugal clutch of claim 1 wherein the hub means and each of
2 the clutch shoe means are of a substantially equal thickness and have
3 complementary physical configurations enabling them to fit together in close
4 agreement whereby the overall thickness of the clutch is no greater than the
5 thickness of either the hub means or the clutch shoe means.

1 6. The centrifugal clutch of claim 5 wherein each clutch shoe means has
2 inward and outward sides in relation to the center of the hub means, the outward
3 side being a greater distance from the center of the hub means than the inward side
4 and comprising a surface adapted to engage the driven member and couple the
5 driving member to the driven member, a passageway through the inward side of the
6 clutch shoe means and terminating in a recess in the clutch shoe means, an arm of

7 the hub means being located in the passageway of the clutch shoe means, and the
8 limiting means being fixed to the outer end of the arm of the hub means and
9 positioned in the recess when the clutch shoe means is not in engagement with the
10 driven member

1 7. The centrifugal clutch of claim 6 wherein the limiting means comprises
2 an enlargement of the arm of a size sufficient to prevent the enlargement from
3 passing through the passageway

1 8. The centrifugal clutch of claim 7 wherein the recess in each clutch
2 shoe means extends along the entire length of the clutch shoe means between and
3 substantially parallel to the outward and inward sides of the clutch shoe means, and
4 the urging means comprises a garter spring that is located circumferentially of the
5 center of the hub means in the recess of each clutch shoe means.